

sometimes happens, as we know to be the case with the preceding species, the older larva destroys the others. In the exception noted a number of parasites were observed in the lower part of the stem, and a small larva probably of this species in the upper end.

Many individuals of the chalcidid *Habrocytus languriae* Ashm. were noticed in the infested stems. Three colonies, each composed of an even half dozen pupæ of this species, were found, one colony in a *Languria's* cell, which gave forth imagos August 23.

Languria gracilis Newm.

About the District of Columbia this species is fairly abundant on different species of *Erigeron*, in about equal numbers on *E. canadense* and *philadelphicum*. On the latter plant oviposition was noticed, eight or nine minutes being consumed in depositing a single egg. The writer has previously recorded (Insect Life, Vol. II, p. 347) the occurrence of this species on *Urtica* and *Ambrosia*.

Languria læta Lec.

To the above should be added the capture of larvæ and adults of *L. læta* by Mr. E. A. Schwarz in the stems of *Datura* at Hearne, Texas, August 6, 1894.

INSECTS BREEDING IN ADOBE WALLS.

BY GUSTAV BEYER,

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During a collecting trip to Cape San Lucas, Lower California, made in 1901, I had my headquarters at Santa Rosa, where I lived in a house of adobe walls and a roof of palm leaves. Glass windows being unknown in this section, two holes in said wall served as windows. It was during the month of July that I noticed numerous beetles on one of these improvised windows; all of which were covered with the flour-like dust of adobe. On further investigation, I found that these came out of the adobe wall, numerous small holes at about two to three and a half feet from the ground disclosing where these insects had come from. The insects were:

Lyctus californicus Casey. Very abundant.

Elasmocerus californicus Fall.

Tillus occidentalis Goch.

Tarsostenus univittatus Rossi.

Teretrius lebatus Horn.

A small wasp.

Lyctus were very plentiful. I could count sixty of these before I was able to detect one of the other species. This adobe wall was two years old and as hard as stone, yet the larva of *Lyctus* had no difficulty in accomplishing the immense work of boring through this composition and changing the solid interior into a powdered substance analogous to flour. The three Cleridæ are undoubtedly parasites of *Lyctus* and the little wasp is also a parasite of either *Lyctus* or one of the Cleridæ. *Elasmocerus californicus* came out only in the forenoon between half past nine and half past eleven o'clock; the other insects were more abundant toward evening.

I did not take these insects at any other place, with the exception of *Tillus occidentalis*. This species would frequent also old logs, and toward evening would peep out of holes bored by Scolytidæ. On some occasions they would come out and run about a little, but it would not be long before they would return to these holes.

Class I, HEXAPODA.

Order IV, DIPTERA.

DIPTERA FROM SOUTHERN TEXAS WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW SPECIES.

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During the past summer Mr. Charles Schaeffer spent several months collecting insects, chiefly Coleoptera, in the vicinity of Brownsville, Texas, in the interest of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and secured, among other things, a small but very interesting collection of Diptera, a series of which was submitted to the writer for naming, and has been returned to the Institute again. This series contained representatives of nine apparently new species besides eight other species which, so far as I am aware, have never been recorded from the United States, their most northern accredited habitat being in